

April 5, 2013

I work in an office building at 1225 I Street, NW and discovered food trucks at Franklin Park last year. I am now hooked on the availability of so many different foods and especially because in this area the choices are limited so it's nice to have them. It isn't surprising to see 50 or 100 people out in the park enjoying the food and sitting on the grass.

I used to bring my lunch rarely can I afford to eat in the DC restaurants although I do try once a week to do just that. I am not sure why the Mayor keeps stating it's about parking availability when the trucks are only there a few hours of each day and put \$\$ in the meter and yet everyday the harassment by parking enforcement picks up speed. There are no restaurants offering Lobster Rolls, Bonmi, Kabobs or specialty grilled cheese, etc. so they are not taking business away from brick and mortar places. Should they pay taxes, etc like everyone else -- you bet. But should be allowed to park where they are not blocking traffic and where the hungry folks are!

It's no different than my co-workers parking there all day and continually feeding the meter. Almost everyday I see parking enforcers harassing the truck drivers and today (4/5/13) they started early. The enforcer even stood in the street and tried to make trucks not park there. How ridiculous is that? It was so blatant that I ran down many flights of stairs so I could take pictures of the early morning harassment. Many others were taking video and pictures as well.

Are there not bigger issues in this city than food trucks that the Mayor's office should focus on? Crime, broken metro, homelessness, speeding, traffic, etc?

Sincerely,
Sherri Thomas

April 5, 2013

As a Ward 1 voter that works in the federal office neighborhoods south of foggy bottom, I enjoy the variety and convenience of food trucks near my workplace and home. Existing regulations on cleanliness and food handling seem adequate to ensure consumer safety. Restricting these vendors to certain areas and certain times seems counterproductive and arbitrary. Tax them appropriately, make sure they serve food in a clean environment, but arbitrary regulation like the ones proposed just makes the city look silly and hurts businesses and the customers that support them... customers that also vote regularly.

Thank you and please oppose these unnecessary regulations.

Darin McAnelly
Ward 1

April 5, 2013

I write to oppose the proposed food truck regulations that would limit the number of trucks that could operate within designated "mobile roadway vending locations." As a consumer, I choose to patronize food trucks simply because the quality of food is better than at brick-and-mortar restaurants, not because food trucks have any price advantage or added convenience factor that must be addressed to benefit brick-and-mortar restaurants. Under the proposed regulations, the number of food trucks which normally distribute at Franklin Park would be slashed by at least 75% - on a given day there are at least a dozen food trucks at Franklin. By curtailing the number of food trucks that can operate in a given area so drastically, the proposed regulations would unnecessarily limit the options in a neighborhood where quality lunch options are few.

Thanks,
Jack Swetland

April 5, 2013

The proposal for regulating food trucks is insane and unnecessary and would just kill this developing industry. We don't need these proposed regulations. They are merely being proposed to protect brick and mortar businesses, which is not the job of this agency. Just make sure food trucks meet the sanitation requirements and perhaps make them pay a fee for parking, but other than that don't randomly dictate which food truck can go where.

Regards,

Max Bergmann
135 Tennessee Ave, NE
Washington DC

April 5, 2013

The new limits on where food trucks are allowed to operate does nothing to help the public or aid any legitimate governmental goal; instead, it's a thinly-veiled ploy to restrict the food trucks' business in the service of brick-and-mortar restaurants. This isn't the kind of thing that the government should be doing; I urge you to vote down the proposed restrictions and only regulate things that actually matter to the public.

Sincerely,

Dan Miller
Ward 6 resident

April 5, 2013

My name is Eric Lashner and I am submitting comments on the fourth notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) appearing in the DC Register Vol 60 No. 11.

I believe that the city should not intervene in protecting the interests of downtown restaurant owners against those of the dc dining public. We deserve choices at all price levels. The city should regulate for health and safety but not competition. The free market should do so (with a reasonable controls).

The map that I have seen is unacceptable for food truck locations.

DCRA should scrap this fourth set of rules and propose rules that regulate health safety and resolve parking issues in a fair manner.

Regards,

Eric Lashner
2029 13th Street NW, Unit 1
Washington DC 20009

April 5, 2013

I wholeheartedly agree with Greater Greater Washington's April 5 article "Scrap the Food Truck Regulations" (<http://greatergreaterwashington.org/post/18379/scrap-the-food-truck-regulations/>). Food trucks have become an actual feature of the city and are a draw to tourists and locals alike.

The fact that DC has restaurant demand that is highly variable based on work schedules, tourist seasons and destinations and time of year means that brick-and-mortar restaurants can never seamlessly fulfill demand. Yes, get revenue based on a fair and rules-based licensing program, but do not arbitrarily make life difficult for entrepreneurs based on the special interest rent-seeking of the restaurant industry.

Thank you,
Parker Crowe

April 5, 2013

Food trucks have found a creative way to serve DC residents in a safe way that they prefer to many traditional restaurants. That they have found a way to avoid the huge cost of entry of getting storefront space in downtown DC is innovation. If you want to pass regulations that will level the playing field a bit, you could charge more for the registration, or special license plates, etc—as long as trucks would have some time to operate before putting up all the money.

This is a business that puts immigrants and young entrepreneurs on an equal playing field with Jose Andres. And customers who would be unlikely to walk into a small immigrant restaurant way north on Georgia Ave are happy to give their business to the same cook in a truck.

For DC residents, those who work in the city, and for fairness, don't pass the hugely restrictive regulations you're considering.

Chris Manley

April 5, 2013

I am reaching out to express my concern with the proposed regulations for DC food trucks. As a lifelong DC resident, as well as general food enthusiast, I have thoroughly enjoyed the recent rise in the prevalence of food trucks in DC.

These businesses bring in revenue for the city, and should be allowed to operate as they currently do, without the imposition of the arbitrary regulations I have read here:

[http://dcra.dc.gov/DC/DCRA/Media%20Releases/newsroom_archive/Rulemaking/Fourth Notice of Proposed Vending Regs.pdf](http://dcra.dc.gov/DC/DCRA/Media%20Releases/newsroom_archive/Rulemaking/Fourth_Notice_of_Proposed_Vending_Regs.pdf)

I argue that while I chose to eat at food trucks, it has not impacted the amount of money I spent at regular 'brick and mortar' restaurants. I still go out to eat, and spend my money at both.

DC has the opportunity to shine as a modern city, adept to culture shifts and new ideas. This is just one of the reasons I am so proud to call this city my home. It would be a shame to impose these regulations on the food trucks. Additionally, there are other ways of collecting regular fees on these trucks, specifically around selling the parking spots at a daily rate. (Something I proposed to the student government when I was at Wilson, but was not used.)

I would be happy to speak with you further on this issue. I do urge you to reconsider the proposed regulations.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Gossens

April 5, 2013

I am a DC resident and regular patron of a variety of food trucks in Washington, DC. As a State Department employee in the wilds of Far Foggy Bottom, my lunchtime selections are few and often pretty gross. Consequently the food trucks are a Godsend. Not only do they offer an alternative to what the Dept of State cafeteria has each day, but they also provide a wonderful range of international fare. The stretch along Virginia Avenue is nice and long, and allows for a wide variety of trucks to come and park there daily and they are almost always kept busy. Many have lengthy lines and I've been out to trucks before who run out of food. Both of those are excellent indicators of the success the food truck business is doing in Washington, DC.

I was extremely disappointed to see that the Virginia Ave stretch would be considered "off-limits" to food trucks under the proposed regulations. It seems to me that the arguments in favor of the regs (ie in the right of way, stiff competition for brick/mortar food shops, health concerns) are all ones that could be mitigated without such stringent and costly measures against the food truck owners themselves, as well as the inadvertent penalty it brings against their customers.

I am curious to know if any metrics have been collected and studied from the vendors themselves. Has the city considered where the highest density of earnings comes from for the food truck owners? Where do the most popular sites appear to be and has that been taken into consideration in selecting the spots for parking? Has there been data collected on how much

revenue the city loses in parking fares when trucks are parked for 2-3 hours at a time during meal times and does the cost of the license they are already required to buy to be a food truck help compensate the city for parking lost? Are they actually displacing THAT many parking spots to begin with? And to the restaurant owners who seem to think they are losing business to the trucks, how have they been asked to concretely demonstrate lost revenue? And what is with the 10-foot sidewalk thing? Do you KNOW how few areas there are in the city where the sidewalks are wide AND they have the parking sites required? This is a v. proscribed amount of real estate, to the point that it seems that the regulations were written intentionally to preclude the trucks from parking really anywhere. There are virtually no restaurants with which they compete when they come to the State Department, nor is there much pedestrian traffic along those sidewalks other than food truck eaters, so I am again puzzled as to why Virginia Avenue was restricted on the new map.

The positive economic impact of the food truck "industry" in Washington, DC appears to be strong based solely on my civilian measurement of popularity. In short, people like them. So why should the city seem intent on restricting them to the point of possibly pushing them out of DC altogether? Parking and traffic are already miserable here, so a few food trucks are never going to be the difference between congestion and ease. That is a far larger civil engineering issue the city needs to undertake and laying blame at the foot of the food truck industry is simply specious.

Has any concession been made to the food truck coalition to help them ease into this transition if it must be made? I'm not opposed to the regulation of business per se, but if it is done to the point that the burden will put those trucks out of business, then it is a poor regulation indeed. I appreciate the listening period the city has provided, as well as the fact that they have presented several iterations of the regulations. That said, the regulations still are not good enough to appease the restaurant association AND prevent mortally wounding the food truck movement. These trucks are fun, delicious, entrepreneurial, creative and mobile. DC has a want for culture and growth. These trucks help bring a bit of personality to the city outside of its wonkish flair. Mayor Grey has an opportunity to help keep them here and make them an aspect of what people expect when they come to visit. I implore the city to loosen the regulations, keep Virginia Ave on the map and keep the food trucks from being relegated to serving only at street festivals or going out of business altogether.

Thank you!

Sincerely,
Forest Harger

April 5, 2013

Please do not support restrictions on food trucks. I love having food choices.

Cynthia Beck

April 5, 2013

I am a resident of the District of Columbia as well as a worker in the Golden Triangle. It is to my understanding that there are proposed regulations about to be employed that will significantly harm the ability for Food Trucks to perform their business in downtown DC. As a frequent food truck customer, I am very concerned about this because of how it will both impact small business, as well as my choices as a consumer. The city and mayor have made it a top priority to incubate small businesses in DC, and by proposing strict regulations limiting the number of food trucks allowed to operate in a given area, that goal is countered. As a consumer during the day in the Golden Triangle, the lunch choices had previously been over-commercialized and repetitive. Since the food trucks have arrived, it brings in specialty lunch options I have not had before. I am also concerned that these regulations are a sign that the local restaurant lobby is shaping city policy to benefit its interests.

I would encourage that the currently proposed vending regulation changes be scrapped or altered to preserve the food trucks' right to sell their products downtown.

Thank you,

Nathan Alberg

April 5, 2013

As a District of Columbia Ward 2 resident and Golden Triangle worker, I find that absolutely no public interest is being fulfilled by the currently-proposed food truck regulations. While I find it admirable that the DCRA is attempting to legally integrate food trucks into the city, I--and my coworkers and neighbors--do not see any reasonable argument for regulating their locations, density, or times of operation. The advantages of the current (and hopefully future) wave of food trucks are the very issues that the proposals wish to eliminate, all for the direct benefit of one constituent--restaurant owners. This is not an entity that needs our help in this particular situation. Both can coexist naturally and easily, just as they currently do. There are hundreds of lunch and dinner options downtown, and perhaps a few dozen food trucks. What one offers,

the other lacks, and vice versa. They are complementary.

I propose that to resolve the legal standing of food trucks in the District, mobile food truck vendor licenses be issued to each eligible food truck, enabling them, in the words of another District resident, "to park in any available spot in a commercial zone, allowing them to operate near their customers. The cost of the license, in the range of a few hundred dollars per month, would bring in more revenue than trucks currently pay by feeding parking meters." Of course all food trucks issued licenses should meet current standards for safety and cleanliness, as they are already required to do.

I hope that the District continues to allow this type of innovation and natural progression within the city, and does not attempt to regulate food trucks out of existence for absolutely no public interest. One of the best reasons to live in DC today is its proliferation of urban amenities--food trucks included--and the vitality and competition that they bring. Thank you.

Best,

Eric Wrigley
Ward 2 Resident

April 5, 2013

Your job is to protect consumers not the economic interests of incumbent businesses. Regulating the locations of food trucks is a cynical attempt to stymie competition that will hurt DC residents and visitors alike.

If there are specific problems for consumers then address those. Maybe charge a flat fee to food trucks that allow them to park at meters without feeding them. Even make this fee higher than if they fed the meter. Or regulate the environmental impact of generators. But restricting the location solves no consumer problem and in fact hurts consumers. Don't do it.

Michael Bales

April 5, 2013

Your latest (fourth) draft of the DC Food Trucks is ridiculous. To try to limit the food trucks to certain areas that are so far away from most of the downtown business is terrible. I work next to Farragut Square and enjoy seeing all the trucks there as well as the patron that enjoy the

trucks food then eat it in the square. There are plenty of brick and mortar restaurants that have opened up around K and 16/17th NW in the last two years (Roti, Chop't, Pret a Manger, Noodles and Co.) that have just as long lines as the food trucks do at lunchtime. To stop the trucks from being downtown will cut off diversity of food and a community that it refreshing to see in a business district.

All you really really want is to make them pay for licenses, so just make them pay for their vendor licenses, a flat fee per month for parking meters, and trash pickup. I have had experience with DCRA in the past and that's all your organization is truly interested in- getting fees for providing a service that citizens want. Just be honest about it and make the regulations fair and let them continue to bring pleasure and diversity to the city.

Sincerely.

Lorraine Osinski

Washington, D.C. 20003

April 5, 2013

I am a DC resident living on Capitol Hill and working in Farragut Square. My organization moved to offices on Farragut Square in the fall of 2008, so I have witnessed the genesis and growth of the food trucks.

The food trucks are a welcome addition to the neighborhood. While many restaurants are nearby (my office especially likes the food, price, and social conscious of the new Pret), food trucks provide additional and frequently more delicious options. They also have created a great sense of community as many people buy their food and eat outside, or at least mingle while waiting in line.

Understandably, there are safety concerns if food trucks violate parking laws or masses of people grow to large in front of a popular truck. However the city chooses to address this, I adamantly disagree with the approach of using a lottery. Having different trucks everyday is part of the appeal. Further, small businesses shouldn't be forced to sit idle for a month if they are not selected. These are small, owner-run establishments that would likely go out of business if this were the case.

I highly encourage the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs to find a different solution to any safety issues being caused by food trucks and to further work with the Food

Truck Association on a solution that will be amenable to everyone, especially those of us who like the much larger variety afforded to us by the food trucks.

Thank you for your time,

Carrie Warick

April 5, 2013

I'm writing to comment on the proposed food truck regulations and generally in support of broad competition and variety among restaurants in DC. I've lived in the District since 2007 and one of the most exciting changes over this time has been the food truck boom. I work in an office in SW, where there are very limited restaurant options, largely due to the lack of retail space. Food trucks regularly add variety and excitement to the dining options, and there are times when I go out to see what trucks are around and then decide to patronize a bricks and mortar restaurant. I believe that food trucks are good for people who work, live, and visit DC, and they should not be heavily restricted or subject to harassment out of concern for the interests of certain competitors.

Thank you!

Gretchen Lehman
226 Bates St NW
Washington, DC 20001
